

**MARVEL**

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**019**

DUGGAN  
CASELLI  
BLEE





[x-men\_[0.00]  
[x-men\_[0.19]

It always starts with a problem. An impractical, unattainable, unworkable problem that **needs** to be solved. Then...I solve it.

-- FORGE

[x-men\_[0.00]  
[x-men\_[0.19]



[x-men\_[0.00],.....]  
[x-men\_[0.19],.....]  
[x-men\_alpha.]









"...and Cable bounced us back in time to put a gate onto Knowhere before it took a trip into the black hole.



INTRUDER ALERT!  
Knowhere has been breached!

"The planter was self-dissolving-- I wanted to make sure nobody saw or heard us, 'cause I've had enough time paradoxes to last a lifetime.



"Now here's the weird part..."



...this is the other side of the gate to wherever Knowhere went, and it's still active!

Wish us luck.



Bye.

So long, see you folks at the Arbor Magna.

They call us here to get our expert opinion, and yet...

Yeah-- that's Forge...







# X-MEN

## THE BROOD VERSUS THE MARVEL UNIVERSE

Forge returned from an excursion into the Vault with the original version of Laura who was thought to have died during her initial mission there with Synch and Darwin. Reuniting with her paramour, Synch, this older version of Laura has entered a tentative truce with the younger version of herself and adopted the new name of Talon.

Talon and Synch's star-crossed reunion was interrupted when the X-Men received a distress call from Cyclops' father, Corsair, after the crew of the *Starjammer* was ambushed by a horde of the parasitic monsters known as the Brood.



\*To see where the Brood are threatening another corner of the Marvel Universe, check out **CAPTAIN MARVEL #46!**



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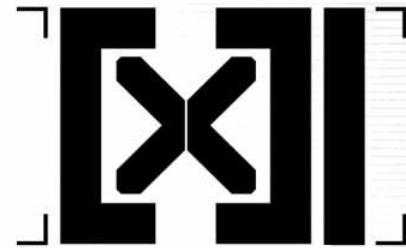
X-Men created by  
Stan Lee & Jack Kirby

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## THE CASTE SYSTEM AND LIFE CYCLE OF THE BROOD

The Brood are an utterly savage, insectoid alien race driven primarily by hunger and procreation. The Brood reproduce, at their most basic level, parasitically, their Queens implanting eggs in other living beings. Those embryos metamorphose their host's bodies until they hatch, fully consuming the hosts and converting them into members of the Brood who retain each host's knowledge and abilities. As such, the Brood often seek out superior life-forms to use as hosts.

### HIVE STRUCTURE:

- **EMPRESS** -- The Brood hive operates under an absolute matriarchal structure, with a single Empress at the top. She is the most powerful of her race and reproduces asexually by laying eggs.
- **FIRSTBORN** -- The Empress is protected by an elite group of Brood known as Firstborn. Larger than Queens and covered with bony, super-durable armored plates, they also have razor-sharp clawed feet and a tail with a single stinger.
- **QUEENS** -- Larger and stronger than the drones, Brood Queens are capable of reproduction through implantation of their parasitic embryos. They can also expel a paralytic liquid from their mouths.
- **DWARF QUEENS** -- Dwarf Queens are female Brood who are capable of reproduction and yet are raised among the drones and are therefore of the same size and strength as the drones.
- **DRONES** -- Also known as "Sleazoids," these worker Brood act on the will of their Empress for the good of the hive.



### UPDATE:

All of the above has been called into question by the introduction of the Kree bioweapon known as "The King Egg." Designed to seize control of the hive by reproducing a supercharged version of the Empress's pheromonal control, the weapon lay unused for eight thousand years before it was consumed by an outcast male drone who through some mutation developed a sense of compassion. Known on his adopted home of Earth as "Broo," he now has complete control over his entire species. It is unknown at this time how much this has disrupted the structure of the hive to the extent that any or all of the conventional wisdom on the species may now be incorrect.

It is also unclear the exact nature and impact of the "control" he wields as reports of Brood attacks continue, though at a far less frequent pace than before.





Wait, a second-- that little nerdy bug fella is the leader of these monsters?

Yep. Not a very good one, from the looks of things.



All right, let's draw their attention off the locals.

I can't say I'm crazy about giant bugs.

Yeah, the Brood still scare me.

Something happened to me when I helped terraform Arakko.



I shed a lot of my old fears...



...but I think I'll hate and fear these ugly things forever.





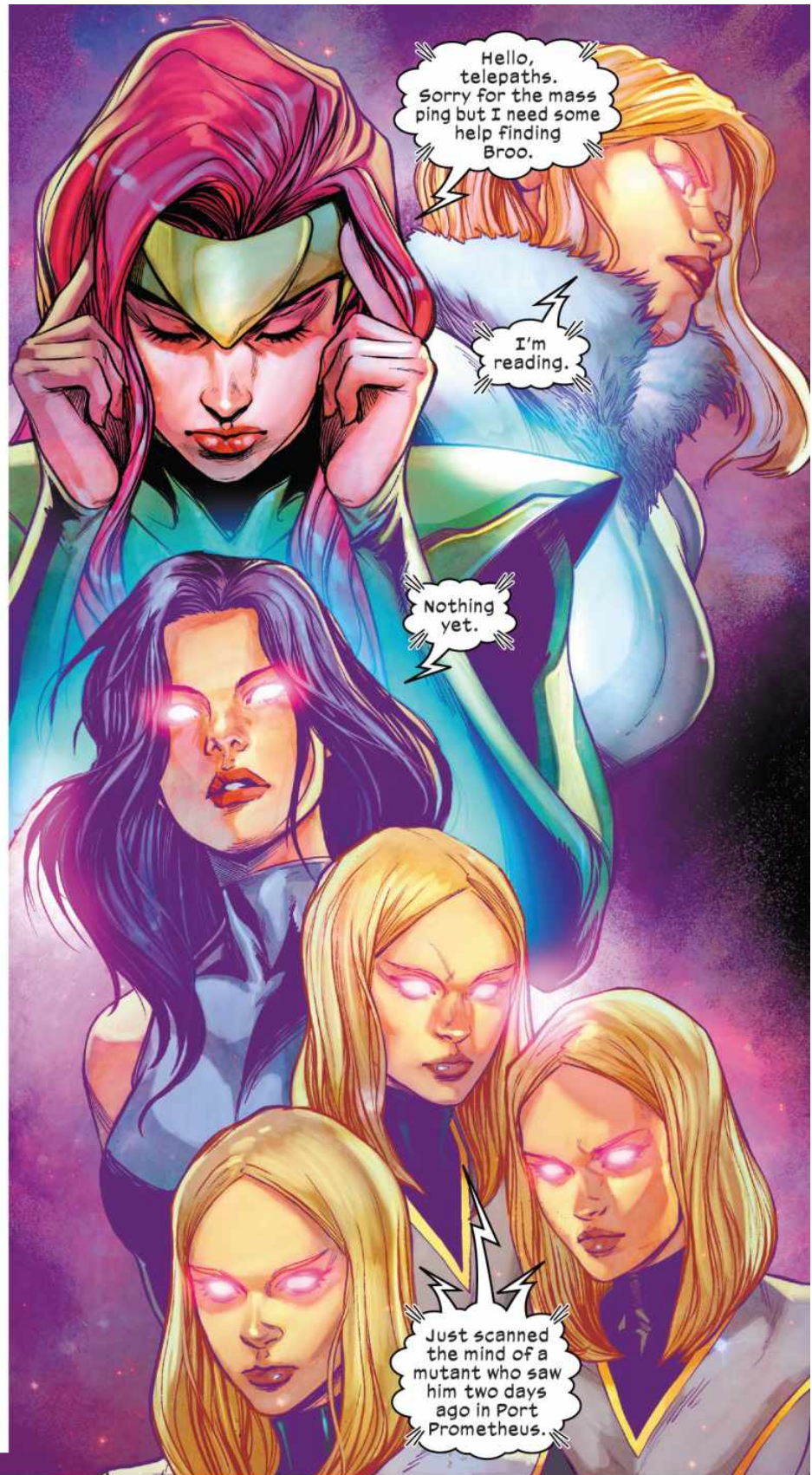




"...go see what Jean thinks."

I think we're in trouble.

Yeah, Broo would never treat his scientific gear like this.



Hello, telepaths. Sorry for the mass ping but I need some help finding Broo.

I'm reading.

Nothing yet.

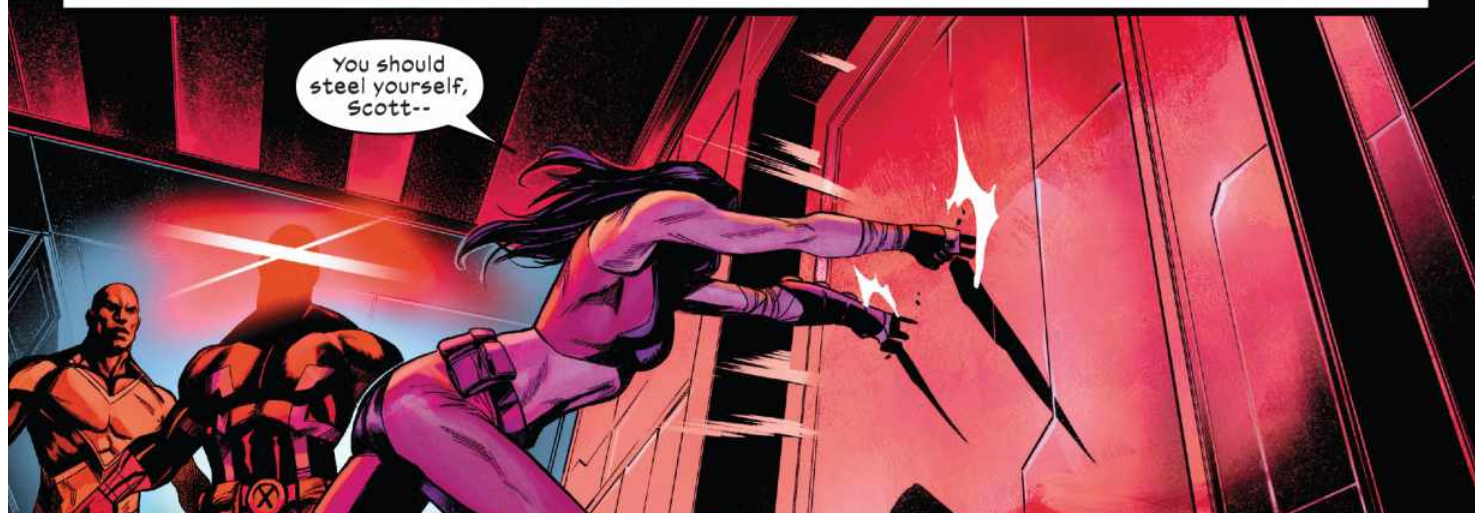
Just scanned the mind of a mutant who saw him two days ago in Port Prometheus.



He's not on Earth.

Illyana, take us to Arakko.









--he's  
in a bad  
way!

Oh,  
god!



Dad!

What can  
I say...



...I thought  
there ought to be  
one more Summers  
brother before I catch  
the last ship out.



The welcoming committee is here, and  
they got us right where they wanted  
us--in a kill zone.

Like when  
we were separated  
from Darwin.\*









Both of you relax. This isn't the first foreign body I've surgically removed.

Synch. He needs Jean's gifts.

AARGH!



I know.

Cyclops, keep the Brood off us.

You two are gonna... just remove the Brood?



Don't worry. After five centuries together in the vault, most of the time when we played doctor...we were *actually* playing doctor.

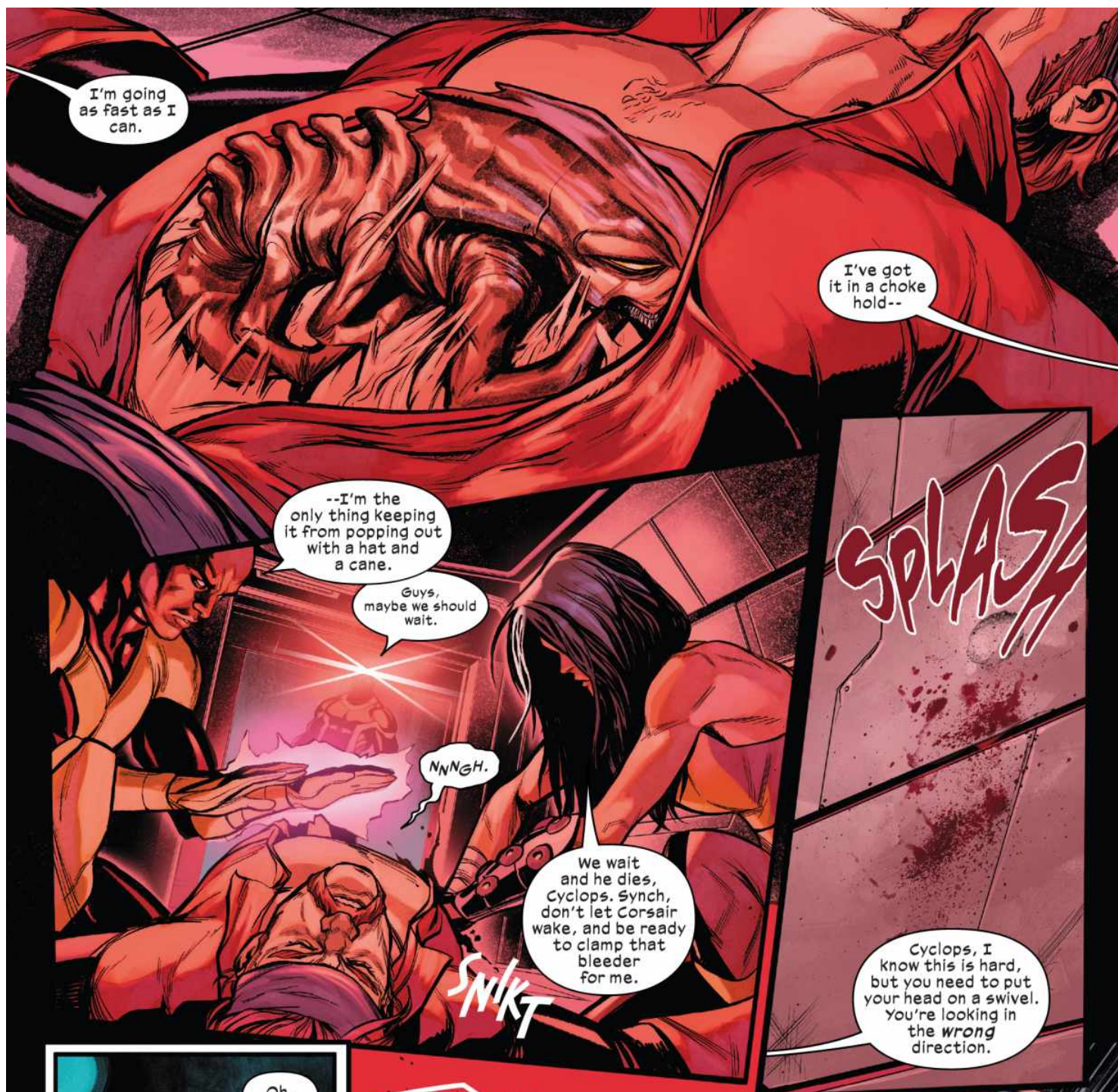


Making the incision.

Keep his mind detached. We have no other way to sedate him.

On it, but I'm also using her TK to massage his heart. He's arresting. We need the parasite out *now*.





I'm going as fast as I can.

I've got it in a choke hold--

--I'm the only thing keeping it from popping out with a hat and a cane.

Guys, maybe we should wait.

NNNGH.

We wait and he dies, Cyclops. Synch, don't let Corsair wake, and be ready to clamp that bleeder for me.

SPLASH

Cyclops, I know this is hard, but you need to put your head on a swivel. You're looking in the wrong direction.

SNIKT



Sorry.



Oh, @%#!



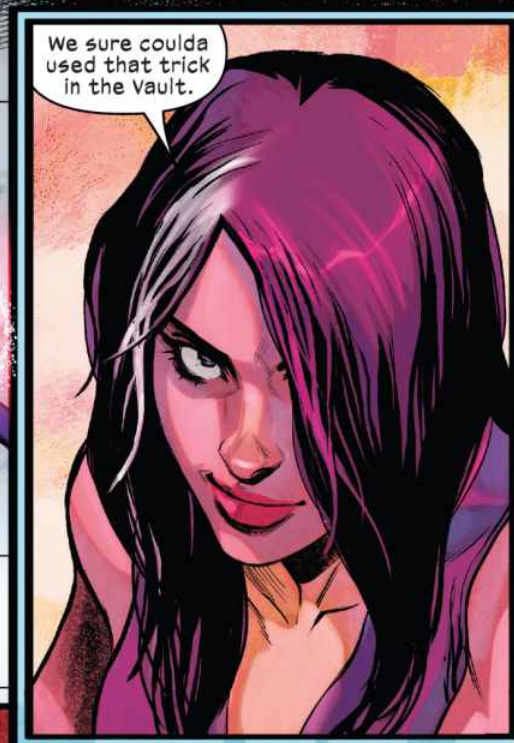






Okay. Now  
I can focus  
just on Corsair.  
His mind is at  
peace...

...but his  
body is a *mess*.  
I'm gonna use  
telekinesis to hold  
him together until  
we can medevac  
him.



We sure coulda  
used that trick  
in the vault.



Yeah, well, syncing from muscle memory  
wasn't in my bag of tricks until  
I returned.

You two are  
extraordinary.

Think  
nothing of it,  
young man.



Let's get  
the hell out  
of here.

Cyclops to  
Iceman and Firestar.  
We found Corsair, and  
we're heading  
your way.

It's  
gonna be a  
gauntlet.





I'd conjure up a stepping disc with Magik's power, but I don't want to do two things at once when one of them is holding your old man's guts together.

All good. Before this is over, we're going to need to get aggressive on the Brood.

I think it's time we took care of this problem once and for all.



I didn't survive the Vault



No, stomping them one at a time is inefficient.

I bet there's a circuit of mutants that can do the job in one fell swoop.



Jean! Can you hear me?

Dammit, she's out of range.









Synch, can you give us a stepping disc out of here?

I could, but--



But Everett is rapidly aging every time he reaches for a power not within arm's length.



Oh. That sounds bad.

I thought something was up with you.

I was going to say "I could use Illyana's powers, but right now, I'm still holding together a bunch of Corsair."



But Laura's not wrong. I still would do it in an emergency, but I'm worried I'd kill Corsair.

This is a nightmare.



Yes, a nightmare... I was bait for the trap you're in...that





"...We're not dead yet."

Knowhere, in unknown space.

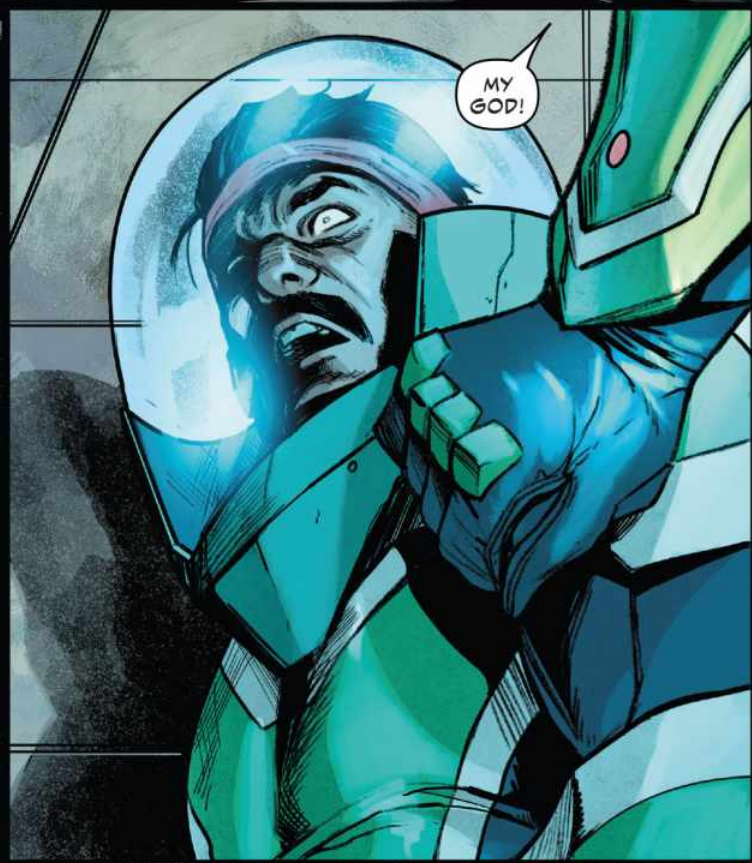
I feel weird.



Yeah, me too--uh-oh.

We have two bodies down here.

I suppose if the station was full when--

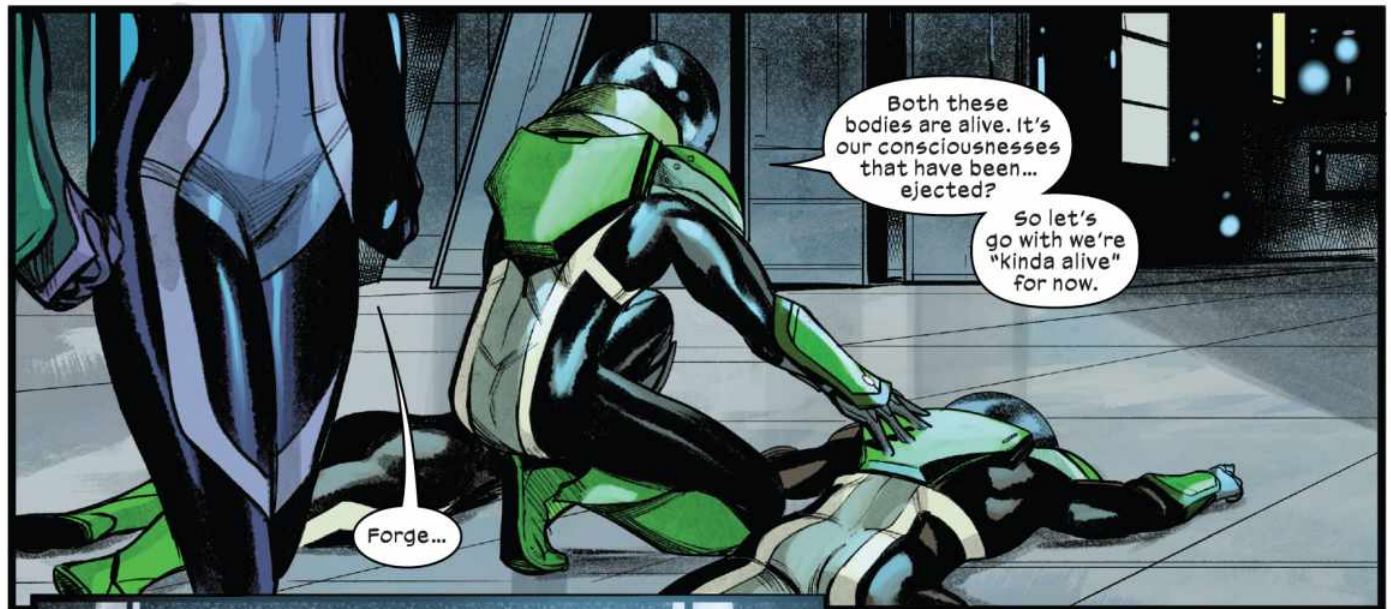
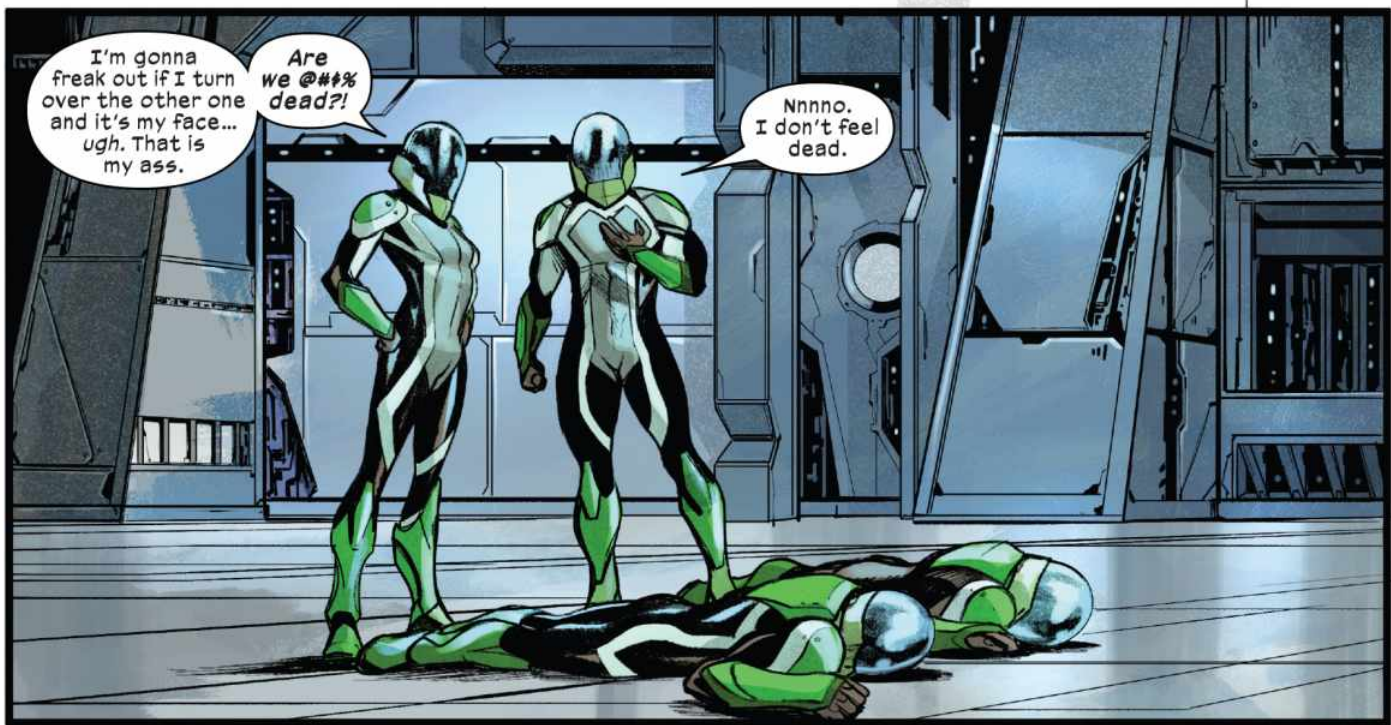


MY GOD!



I-it's me!





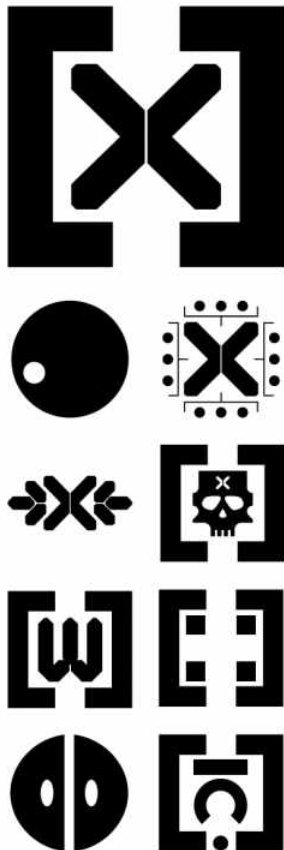


"...at least  
from *our*  
universe."





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NEXT



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Deadpool #4

Immoral X-Men #1

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